

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-16 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 17 is currently amended.

Claim 18 was previously presented.

Claims 20-31 are new.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 17, 18 and 20-31 will be active.

The amendment to claim 17 is supported in paragraph [0040] of the specification.

New claims 20-29 are supported by claims 3-12, respectively, as previously presented.

New claim 30 is supported by claim 14 as previously presented.

New claim 31 is supported in paragraph [0035] of the specification.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The Office has rejected claims 1 and 6-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nerad (U.S. Patent No. 5,641,426). In addition, the Office has rejected claims 1-19 over the combination of Nerad and Hagstrom (U.S. Patent No. 5,578,693).

Nerad describes a light modulating device having a vinyl ether-based matrix. The matrix (16) and liquid crystal droplets (14) form an optically responsive film (12) (see Fig. 1). The film thickness is from 5 to 25 microns (Column 10, lines 30-38). Consequently, the matrix is applied as a film in a layer between 5 to 25 microns. This thickness gives the light modulating properties required by Nerad.

The present disclosure relates to a method of using a curable thiol-ene formulation involving providing a backing material and providing on the backing material a layer of a curable thiol-ene formulation containing a polyfunctional mercaptan, a vinyl-terminated urethane synthesized from at least one polyester polyol and at least one aliphatic diisocyanate and then curing the thiol-ene formulation with a curing agent where the layer of the curable thiol-ene formulation has a thickness of about 3 to 4 mils (76-102 microns). The method is useful in making pressure sensitive and hot melt adhesives.

The cited reference (Nerad) does not teach or suggest a curable thiol-ene formulation with a thickness of about 76-102 microns, and therefore, the cited reference would not have rendered the claims unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nerad.

Hagstrom describes urethane oligomers that are the reaction product of an isocyanate containing polyurethane oligomers and a polyhydric alcohol. However, Hagstrom does not overcome the deficiencies of Nerad. Accordingly, the claimed method would not have been obvious over the combination of Nerad and Hagstrom. Therefore, Applicants respectfully

request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nerad and Hagstrom.

In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants have included fees for three-month extension of time and believe no additional fees are due with this amendment. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20435-00144-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,
Electronic signature: /Donald K. Drummond,
Ph.D./
Donald K. Drummond, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 52,834
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant